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Message Text

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ACTION SCA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 PPT-01 L-03 VO-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CPR-01 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02
SSO-00 INRE-00 /056 W
----------071714Z 100282 /53
O R 071612Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8352
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOSCOW 8049

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN PFOR UR US
SUBJ: US/USSR CONSULAR TALKS - SECOND ROUND
SECOND SESSION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 7956 (B) 76 MOSCOW 13077 (C) 76 STATE 213884

SUMMARY: SECOND SESSION OF SECOND ROUND US/USSR CONSULAR TALKS TOOK PLACE AT MFA RECEPTION HALL JUNE 7. IN RESPONSE TO US PACKAGE PROPOSAL PRESENTED JUNE 6, SOVIET SIDE PRESENTED ITS OWN PROPOSAL. SOVIET PACKAGE PREDICTABLY MAXIMIZED PROSPECTIVE SOVIET GAINS, WHILE MINIMIZING CONSESSIONS OFFERED TO US SIDE. IN RESPONSE, US SIDE MADE CLEAR ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT UNBALANCED PACKAGE. IT WAS AGREED TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS JUNE 8.
END SUMMARY.

1. AT JUNE 7 SESSION OF CONSULAR TALKS, CONSULAR COUNSELOR MADE OPENING STATEMENT SUGGESTING THAT PROPOSAL MADE BY AMERICAN SIDE SERVE AS BASIS FOR INITIAL SESSIONS OF SECOND ROUND. HE STATED THAT US PROPOSAL IS BALANCED ATTEMPT TO DECIDE EASIEST QUESTIONS FIRST WHILE BOTH SIDES RESERVE RIGHT TO RAISE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS AT LATER DATE.
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2. SOVIET DELEGATION LEADER GOROKHOV IN TURN PRESENTED SOVIET PROPOSAL APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO COUNTER INITIAL US PACKAGE SUBMITTED PREVIOUS DAY. SOVIET SIDE AGREED TO PROVIDE ITS PACKAGE PROPOSAL IN WRITING AT JUNE 8 SESSION, BUT GOROKHOV'S ORAL STATEMENT APPEARED TO INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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A. US AND USSR WOULD ISSUE VISAS TO PERMANENT AND
TDY STAFF ASSIGNED TO RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES,
CONSULATES GENERAL, AND SOVIET PERMANENT MISSION TO US
WITHIN 3-5 DAYS. ALL OTHER VISAS FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES
WOULD BE ISSUED WITHIN 8 DAYS. SOVIET SIDE PRESENTED
PROPOSAL ON VISA ISSUANCE TIMES AS SIGNIFICANT SIMPLIFICATION
OF EARLIER SOVIET PROPOSAL WHICH ENVISAGED DIFFERENT
PROCESSING PERIODS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF OFFICIAL VISITORS.
(REF B).

B. US AND USSR WOULD ISSUE MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT
VISAS TO PERMANENT STAFF ASSIGNED TO RESPECTIVE
EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES GENERAL VALID FOR THE
DURATION F THEIR ASSIGNMENTS.

C. EACH SIDE WOULD ISSUE DIPLOMATIC VISAS TO
HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS TRAVELING TO RECEIVING
STATE, REGARDLESS OF PURPOSE OF TRIP.

D. US AND SOVIET SIDES SHOULD EXCHANGE NOTES AGREEING
TO ISSUE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS VALID FOR DURATION OF STAY
TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN LONG TERM EXCHANGES.
GOROKHOV ADDED THAT US PROPOSAL TO ISSUE
MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS TO ALL ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES
OF US AND SOVIET BUSINESS OFFICES IS "UNDER CONSIDERATION."

E. SOVIET AND US SIDE SHOULD FURTHER DISCUSS EXPANSION
OF NUMBER OF EXIT/ENTRY POINTS OPEN FOR USE BY OFFICIAL
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PERSONNEL OF EACH COUNTRY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SOVIET
SIDE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT US PROPOSAL FOR TEN ENTRY/EXIT
POINTS, GOROKHOV RESPONDED THAT NUMBER OF POINTS WOULD
HAVE TO BE SET IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SIDES.

F. US SHOULD ISSUE "A" VISAS TO PERSONNEL OF AMTORG
AND OTHER SOVIET COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN US AS WAS
DONE PRIOR TO 1974 (I.E., PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF "L"
VISA PROCEDURES.)

G. PERSONNEL OF SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL IN
SAN FRANCISCO SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM SALES TAXES AS
ENVISAGED BY ARTICLE 23 OF US/USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION.
THIS SOVIET PROPOSAL INITIATED SPIRITED EXCHANGE IN
WHICH US SIDE POINTED OUT LARGE NUMBER OF "TAXES"
WHICH US AND OTHER DIPLOMATS PAY IN USSR. SOVIET SIDE
CLAIMED THAT THESE TAXES ARISE FROM SOVIET PRICING
SYSTEM AND ARE NOT ANALOGOUS TO CALIFORNIA SALES TAX,
BUT POINTS MADE BY US SIDE APPEARED TO TOUCH SENSITIVE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 8049

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H. FAMILIES OF ADMINISTRATIVE-TECHNICAL PERSONNEL OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SHOULD RECEIVE PRIVILIGES AND IMMUNITIES COMPARABLE TO THOSE GRANTED IN USSR TO FAMILIES OF US ADMINISTRATIVE-TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

I. SOVIET DIPLOMATIC COURIERS TO CONGEN SAN FRANCISCO SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM METAL DETECTION INSPECTION AT AIRPORT.

J. CHILDREN BORN TO FAMILIES OF SOVIET OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO US SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM ACQUISITION OF US NATIONALITY AT BIRTH.

3. WHILE WE DO NOT YET HAVE SOVIET PROPOSAL IN WRITING, GOROKHOV'S ORAL STATEMENT WAS FAR FROM A BALANCED TRADE-OFF OF PROPOSALS ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH SIDES. IT APPEARED TO INCLUDE MAXIMUM SOVIET GOALS WHILE MAKING MINIMAL CONCESSIONS ON US PROPOSALS. OUR INITIAL RESPONSE TO GOROKHOV'S ORAL PROPOSAL SERVED NOTICE THAT US SIDE IS NOT PREPARED TO SWALLOW SUCH AN UNBALANCED PACKAGE. UPON RECEIPT OF WRITTEN PROPOSAL JUNE 8, WE INTEND TO PRESS SOVIETS TO ACCEPT MORE REASONABLE AND MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS PACKAGE.
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4. ACTION REQUESTED: SOVIET SIDE ASKED WHETHER DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF USSR STATE COMMITTEES WILL BE OFFERED VISA CATEGORIES AND PRIVILEGES COMPARABLE TO THOSE NOW AFFORDED USSR MINISTERS, DEPUTY MINISTERS, AND CHAIRMEN OF STATE COMMITTEES. IS DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO ISSUE DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF STATE COMMITTEES "A" VISAS AS IT NOW DOES FOR ABOVE CATEGORIES?

EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER EMBASSY MAY NOW PROPOSE TO MFA THAT MUL
TIPLE VISAS FOR PERMANENT STAFFS BE RECIPROCALLY VALID FOR THREE YEARS VICE ONE YEAR AS UNDER PRESENT PRACTICE (REF C)?
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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